



PRESS RELEASE

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LITCHFIELD PARK MAN CHARGED WITH CREDIT CARD "SKIMMING"

PHOENIX -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announces that on May 14, 2004, Nghia Bao Nguyen, DOB 3/2/76, of Litchfield Park, Ariz. was arrested and charged with violating Title 18, U.S. Code, Sections 1029(a)(2) and (a)(4), Fraud in Connection with Access Devices and Possession of Device Making Equipment, respectively.

According to the criminal complaint filed on May 14, 2004, Nguyen obtained about \$80,000 in goods using unauthorized access devices or credit cards and attempted to make more than 20 other transactions. On April 14 and 15, 2004, he made purchases totaling more than \$25,000 at an Ultimate Electronics Store in Chandler, Ariz. Nguyen was arrested by Chandler Police as he was attempting to leave a home furnishings store in Chandler. At that time, according to the complaint, he had ten credit cards, one of which had been re-encoded and contained a number in the magnetic stripe that did not match the number embossed on the front of the card. A card "skimmer" was found in his car.

Nguyen was ordered detained at a court hearing on May 14, 2004. A preliminary hearing

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and a detention hearing are set for May 18, 2004.

A conviction for 18 U.S.C. 1029(a)(4) carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for 18 U.S.C. 1029(a)(2) carries a maximum penalty of 10 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted the Chandler Police Department, the Glendale Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: 04-0152M
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-92

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